



# Public Comment Form

(Please Print)

Name Judy A. Willie

Address P.O. Box  
Newcomb, NM 87455

Affiliation Burham resident

Telephone 505 ~~500~~

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to be added to our mailing list? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Comments: Although it's determined that the  
air is cleaned, it is not clean. @ the present  
the air is not clean. There is pollution  
from existing power plants which  
impacts our health. The area  
has many health problems, just  
last week there was another  
miscarriage - that's how it  
impacts our health.

NO to Desert Rock air  
permit

Dennis J. Woods

Farmington, NM 87401

Dear Sir,

I am writing to express my concern over the proposed Desert Rock power plant. I will be working and unable to attend either of the scheduled hearings on the power plant air quality permit. My first concern is with two of the major polluting power plants in the U.S. in the four corners area why does the EPA think another nearby power plant is appropriate?

How will the plant comply with the Clean air Mercury Rule of 2005 to permanently Limit and reduce mercury emissions from coal fired power plants. This is especially relevant as the region has had already had health advisories due to such emissions from the two power plants we have already. How are such health advisories affecting our local rivers, streams and lakes? What will be the effect of increased mercury emissions from Desert Rock on the areas groundwater.

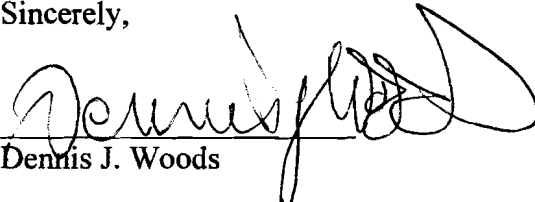
What effect will the new power plant have on visibility in such class I areas like nearby Mesa Verde National Park and the Weminuche Wilderness.

How does desert rock comply with Executive Order 12898, "Federal actions to address environmental justice in minority populations and low income populations." The air quality permit requires compliance with environmental justice where issues of concern include, "disproportionate exposure to pollutants, potential health problems" The potential health problems are respiratory diseases and heavy metal in fish related to Increased air pollution from the proposed power plant.

The draft environmental statement for the Desert Rock project has not yet been released and won't be released until after the comment period for air quality closes. How can the air quality permit be evaluated without this environmental statement being released to the public.. How does the public know that the entire Desert Rock project Will be incorporated and evaluated in the proposed air quality permit.

I think it is inappropriate to add another coal fired power plant to the four corners area. It is obvious that by allowing another such plant the EPA will be contributing to the Degration of public health and quality of life in the area.

Sincerely,

  
Dennis J. Woods

FROM :

FAX NO. :

Oct. 13 2006 08:52AM P1 <sup>II-92</sup>

10/13/06

TO: ROBERT BAKER  
(415) 947-3579

FROM: RICHARD C. THORP

RE: DESERT ROCK ENERGY FACILITY

DEAR MR BAKER,

PLEASE DO NOT APPROVE A PERMIT FOR THE ABOVE MENTIONED FACILITY. WE IN SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO ALREADY SUFFER FROM THE POLLUTION FROM THE EXISTING COAL FIRED PLANT IN FARMINGTON, NM.

THE CUMULATIVE EFFECT OF THAT AND THE PROPOSED FACILITY WOULD BE DEVASTATING TO OUR AIR QUALITY. NOT ONLY THE VISIBLE POLLUTION (WHICH AFFECTS OUR TOURIST ECONOMY) BUT MOSTLY THE UNSEEN AIRBORNE POLLUTANTS.

THANKS  
R.C. Thorp

10-04-06

Robert Baker, Air-3  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
75 Hawthorne St.  
San Francisco, Ca 94105

Sir,

I am writing to address the issue of the construction of the Desert Rock power plant currently being planned on a site 25 miles south of Shiprock, New Mexico. I have the following concerns about this project.

First of all there are already two plants in this area which are major polluting plants. This concentration of plants in this area serves to pollute air in various forms. This seems to negate any concern for the health of residents.

The information given at the EPA hearing in Durango, Co fails to address the increase pollution from the source of mercury. It is well documented that recently the water in area lakes and reservoirs show an increase of mercury pollution. Mercury has many negative health effects on children, pregnant woman and the general population. This summer the public was warned not to consume fish from area lakes because of unsafe levels of mercury found there. This high concentration of mercury is directly linked to the coal powered plants that already exist in this area. The addition of more plants can only serve to exacerbate this existing problem.

Secondly, the increase of CO2 emissions will serve to increase global warming, an issue which is well documented and dangerous to the lives of all citizens of this country and the world.

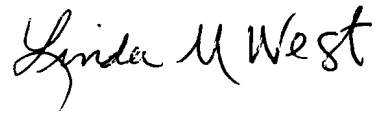
Thirdly, what impact will the addition of this pollutant have on the visibility in the areas of Mesa Verde National Park, the Weminuche Wilderness, and the Grand Canyon? What impact will additional air pollution have on the fragile cliff dwellings?

Fourthly, visibility is already impaired by the current coal burning plants that exist in this area. The health of people who suffer respiratory ailments is at risk because of coal burning plants. The health of the general public is also at risk. Therefore, if more pollution is added to this area through the construction of another plant how is the health of these residents being protected? The right to be able to have clean air to breathe is a basic right and need that should not be ignored.

Fifthly, it is my belief that cleaner sources of generating electricity exist in this country. What is the reason they cannot be employed and still accomplish the goal of gaining additional electricity? I feel as if this area is being singled out for development because of its relatively low population. One may make the mistake of assuming this population is not aware of the above mentioned implications of coal burning facilities, but rest assured that is not the case. As a

resident of Southwest Colorado, I would like the region to maintain at least the current level of healthy air and water quality. I would ask that this project be reconsidered and one, which would use a cleaner source of electricity, be implemented. Thank you for your consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda M. West". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Linda" and last name "West" being more prominent than the middle initial "M".

Linda M. West

Dooda Desert Rock Power Plant  
P.O. Box 357  
Shiprock, NM 87420  
(505) 860-6166

Dooda Desert Rock Power Plant Committee  
July 28, 2006

Diné Power Authority  
C/o Steven Begay, General Manager  
Morgan Blvd  
Window Rock, AZ 86515

BHP Billiton/BHP Navajo Coal Company  
C/o Bill Skeet  
P.O. Box 1717  
Fruitland, New Mexico 87416

Dear Gentlemen:

This letter conveys our continuing opposition to Dine' Power Authority and BHP Billiton Company's proposal to construct the Desert Rock Power Plant in Burnham, NM. Given that the most impacted people still reside within close proximity of the proposed power plant site, any future communications, negotiations, monetary exchanges, and signatures of any documents between Dine' Power Authority Officials (DPA) and BHP Billiton Representatives with Burnham residents, Elders, non-English speaking persons, and/or community members lacking comprehension of English language must require written documentation summarizing the purpose of inquiry, a proper explanation, and a signature of the interested business entity.

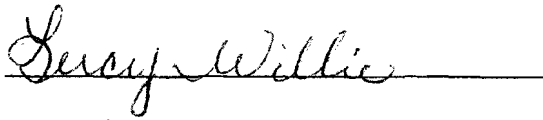
The above documentations can then be reviewed and discussed by our educated family members when they are home for the weekends. It is disingenuous to be approaching us during the week when we are alone and vulnerable.

This request is necessary to protect Burnham residents and elders from making uninformed negotiations and transactions that may result in undesirable consequences. Because Dine' Power Authority, Sithe Global Power and BHP Billiton will inevitably request cooperation from Burnham residents, verbal communications and verbal transactions must be accompanied by written documentation so that the safety of the land, people, and the environment is in the utmost consideration when dealing with the proposed Desert Rock Project.

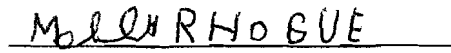
Any pre-approval agreements without proper explanation can be damaging to landowners, local residents, and grazing permit holders within the Burnham area. Burnham residents are aware of the progress being made in the Desert Rock Energy Project and any premature decisions

disregarding the environment and the people is purely unethical and calls for Burnham citizens to be accountable for future transactions through written documentation.

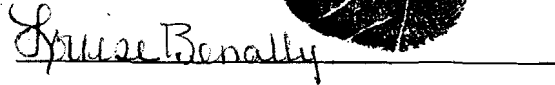
The residents surrounding the proposed site for the power plant are members of the Burnham chapter. Although a portion of the land may be under Nenahnezad chapter as per recent decision, the residents are still voters in Burnham Chapter House processes. We, therefore, object to any activity within our grazing areas that will destroy and inhibit grazing, agriculture, ceremonial, and cultural rituals in the preparation for the proposed power plant.



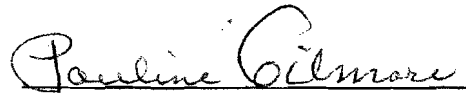
Lucy Willie, Member, Burnham



Molly Hogue, Member, Burnham



Louise Benally, Member, Burnham



Pauline Gilmore, member, Burnham



Elmer Long, Member, Burnham



IX 95

October 25, 2006

Robert Baker  
EPA Air Quality (AIR-3)  
USEPA Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Baker:

Recent EPA hearings have totally ignored and don't address the real world impacts. The number one concern is Health Impacts and that was never even given consideration. There needs to be a survey done to get assessment of current health related impacts from the two existing power plants. The two worst power plants in the west.

I am writing to object to the proposed Desert Rock Power Plant. Given that unpaved roads and weak infrastructures mean sure death in times of respiratory failure—adding particulates to the air, which increase the likelihood of respiratory failures is tantamount to murder. 'Upgraded roads' were promised to Navajo residents by Four Corners Power Plant, but these promises remain unfulfilled.

Additionally, those who are proposing the mine are in violation of Environmental Justice Executive Order 12869 by not publicizing to local residents public meetings; I object to progress and negotiations made with out local residents' knowledge and input.

Sincerely,

*Eniter G. Breyer*

October 24, 2006

Robert Baker  
EPA Air Quality (AIR-3)  
USEPA Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Baker:

There was a miscarriage of justice carried out by the recent hearings held on the Draft Air Quality Permit for Desert Rock, Clean Air Act Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit. The process didn't even begin to address the health problems impacting the residents right under the proposed Desert Rock.

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed Desert Rock Power Plant. The EPA assessment didn't take into consideration addressing the Executive Order 12898: "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." Compliance with Environmental Justice is required for the Air Quality permit, where issues of concern include: "Disproportionate exposure to pollutants, potential health problems (i.e. respiratory, heavy metals in fish, etc)"\* Therefore, residents insist that a health assessment, including Access Issues is essential as a baseline measure for monitoring purposes. Residents strongly object to being exposed to further pollution. A health study needs to be conducted to address health problems and lack of access to health care.

Sincerely,

*Betty M. Dixon*

*Samostee, NM 87461*

\*Source: CISEPA Air Quality Impact Report, NSR .4-1-3, AZP 04-01

October 24, 2006

Robert Baker  
EPA Air Quality (AIR-3)  
USEPA Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

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Sincerely,



*Gauche Benally*

*Fruitland, NM 87416*

\*Source: CISEPA Air Quality Impact Report, NSR .4-1-3, AZP 04-01

October 24, 2006

Ambrose Willie  
Dooda Desert Rock Committee/Diné CARE  
P. O. Box 7669  
Newcomb, NM 87455

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Robert Baker, Air-3  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Baker:

I object to the issuance of the PSD air quality permit to Sithe Global Power for the Desert Rock Energy Facility. The recent public hearings did not address the cumulative health impacts. Two existing plants in the vicinity have been called two of the worst point-sources of pollution in the U.S. by the EPA, spewing concentrations of a number of pollutants proven to be damaging to human health and the environment. The health of neighboring residents has already been compromised by their exposure to these toxins; it would be genocidal to subject them to more pollutants in their already overburdened community. Despite the talk of so-called reduced power plant emissions, the San Juan County area simply cannot afford the increased emissions levels that will result from Desert Rock.

**Objections based on Health Impacts and the severe lacking Indian Health care.**

- a. "Eric Broderick, DDS, Senior Advisor for Tribal Health Policy in the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, said the reduction in Medicaid funding is a valid concern and any cuts will affect states and tribes. Medicaid funding is pass-through from the state to the tribes. With the poverty rate on the reservations very high, Medicaid becomes an important source of funding for children's' and elders' health care needs" [...]

"One frequent and longtime complaint from the tribal leaders is that the budget for direct healthcare has to compete with administrative and other expenses."

Source: Melmer, David. "Health care is all about the funding."

Indian Country Today. Oneida, N.Y.: Nov 16, 2005. Vol. 25, Iss. 23; pg. A1

- b. "Navajo Indian Health Services are only 70% funded and there is a 25% vacancy rate for doctors and nurses" states the Director of the Division of Health for the Navajo Nation.

Source: 2004 Broken Promises-Evaluating Native American Health Care System by US Commission on Civil Rights

- c. Victims of Asthma and other respiratory diseases have record high admittance at Shiprock Indian Health Service Emergency Room; Higher than other Health Providers in the Four Corners Region.

Source: Anonymous IHS Nurse/Provider. Studies needed as no documentation is being released for public purposes.

Ambrose Willie Sr.  
Box  
Newcomb, NM 87455

- d. Medicare & Medicaid has decreased its funding: IHS, which provides or pays for health care of about 1.8 million American Indians and Alaska Natives, has a proposed budget of about \$3.8 billion for fiscal year 2006. However, tribes estimate that about \$19.4 billion is required to adequately meet all health care needs, according to APHA member Yvette Roubideaux, MD, MPH.

Source: Late, Michele. "Health Status of American Indians, Alaska Natives still lagging behind." *The Nation's Health. American Public Health Association*. June/July 2005.

- e. Unpaved roads and weak infrastructures mean sure death in times of respiratory failures. 'Upgraded roads' were promised to Navajo residents by Four Corners Power Plant but these unfulfilled promises are still unmet.

Source: Concerned Burnham residents. July 2005

- f. Residents object to being exposed to further pollution. A health study needs to be conducted to address health problems and lack of access to healthcare.

Before the permit to Site Global Power for the Desert Rock Energy Facility it is critical that the above concerns are addressed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ambrose Willie', written in a cursive style.

Ambrose Willie  
Dooda Desert Rock Committee/Diné CARE

XI-99

October 25, 2006

Lucy A. Willie  
Dooda Desert Rock Committee/Diné CARE  
P. O. Box 7669  
Newcomb, NM 87455

United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Robert Baker, Air-3  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
75 Hawthorne St., San Francisco, CA 94105

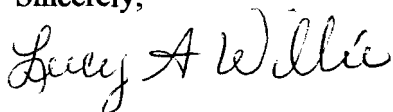
Dear Mr. Baker

I live on the Navajo reservation and live and support my family with our livestock. I reside 5 miles from the proposed Desert Rock Power Plant. I object to the issuance of the PSD air quality permit to Sithe Global Power for the Desert Rock Energy Facility.

The recent public hearings did not address the Executive Order on Environmental Justice 12898. The Desert Rock project will have disproportionate impacts on the low income and minority communities. As a federal agency, the EPA obligated to consider environmental justice impacts prior to issuance of the permits. The EPA has not addressed how Desert Rock Energy Facility complies with Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations."

The attached letter was sent to Diné Power Authority and BHP Billiton because of their violation of **Environmental Justice Executive Order 12898** by their unethical and unaccountable process with the local people. Negotiations are made without the community people's knowledge and inputs.

Sincerely,



Lucy A. Willie

October 22, 2006

Robert Baker  
EPA Air Quality (AIR-3)  
USEPA Region 9  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Baker:

When considering the proposed Desert Rock Power Plant, my question is: Why is the EPA allowing the high concentration of power plants in the Four Corners region, resulting in degraded public health and quality of life.

We need answers that weren't even considered and addressed in the Air Quality Permit. High emission levels from Four Corners and San Juan Power Plants have severely affected agriculture in the San Juan basin. I object to subjecting the land to more air pollution which will have severe repercussions on the agriculture and pastoral lifestyle on which local residents' incomes rely. Additionally, I object to the violent treatment of the earth that is an unavoidable result of strip mining.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Samuel Hammer". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

November 10, 2006

Dear Mr. Baker,

I write, as a concerned citizen, on behalf of those people whom will be affected by the multitude of proposed coal fired power plants in the Southwest — including Desert Rock.

I want my children to have a better quality of life that includes clean air. Clean air is a precious commodity, more precious than energy generated by coal fired power plants!

Cleaner sources of energy are available and should be tapped

As much as I would wish  
the Navajo Nation ~~would~~ prosper,  
if Desert Rock plant is constructed—  
I think the cost of sacrificial  
human lives and health  
far outweigh any financial  
gain that might be met!

Therefore, I say pressure  
the existing power plants  
to clean up their acts  
before approving any new plants!!

Sincerely,  
Gene Hamill—  
Smitland, NM

Hello, Robert Baker, (EPA),

You know that the Sierra Club is highly concerned about all the air pollution, sulfur dioxide, mercury and other pollutants that come from power plants. The proposed Desert Rock coal fired power plant that the Navajos want to get underway soon isn't a good idea. We must remember all the air pollution that remains in the air from jet airplanes and automobiles. There are a great many jet airplanes in the air worldwide, every day, leaving plenty of polluting emissions in the atmosphere above us. Jet flights have been going on for 60+ years.

There have been many problems caused by acid rain. What type of fuel do trains use that might be contributing to pollution? China burns plenty of coal for their power plants and will not be slowing down their usage. They are also using increasing amounts of gasoline for automobiles. They are having more problems finding and keeping a clean water source for drinking water. Many of their rivers are now polluted, especially near their cities.

We, in the U.S., use more than our share of gasoline. We should find ways to cut down on our consumption. We have automobiles powered by other types of fuels. Global warming is now a very real and frightening prospect for many of us.

Have you heard of the 4 Corners ozone task force and the 4 Corners air quality task force? Other sites you might be interested in are: WHO (World Health Organization), [http://www.noaa.gov/," data-bbox="105 458 345 475">Mayors Climate Protection Initiative](http://www.noaa.gov/,), [www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate.](http://www.seattle.gov/mayor/climate.) [San Juan Citizens.org](http://www.sanjuan.org) (around the La Plata County area).

# Clean-coal power

## Xcel's plans could signal welcome change

**X**cel Energy announced plans on Tuesday to commit \$3.5 million over the next 16 months toward developing a clean-coal power plant. The power plant – the first of its kind in the West – would use a process called Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle, or IGCC, to turn coal into a gas before burning it to create energy. In doing so, emissions are reduced, efficiency is increased and it is possible to capture the resulting carbon dioxide before it escapes into the atmosphere.

Xcel's plans, bolstered by legislation signed this spring by Gov. Owens, represent a great step forward in providing needed power for growing demand across the West while not causing environmental damage in the form of greenhouse gas emissions and other pollution. The Colorado Legislature, Owens and Xcel all deserve credit for their efforts on this project, as the IGCC method is both more expensive than traditional coal-fired power plants and is untested at higher elevations and with western coal.

The IGCC plant would provide enough electricity to serve 350,000 homes and will cost at least \$500 million to construct – 10 percent more than a traditional power plant would require. While \$50 million is a significant chunk of money, the state's commitment to helping – through the Colorado Renewable Energy Authority, which will have up to \$6 million in severance tax proceeds to help with the IGCC plant and other new research, technology and education – signals Colorado's eagerness to be at the forefront of clean energy development in the West. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 also earmarked \$200 million a year for developing clean energy technology.

This dedication from Xcel, the state and Congress comes none too soon and provides a glimpse of what might have been – indeed, what should have been – a part of Sithe Glob-

al Power's planning process for the Desert Rock Energy Project in northwestern New Mexico. The Desert Rock facility will become the third coal-fired power plant in the region. The San Juan Generating Station and Four Corners Power Plant are notorious polluters, each earning unpleasant recognition for its carbon dioxide, mercury and nitrogen oxide emissions. While Sithe and Environmental Protection Agency officials have said the plant will be built with pollution controls and other safeguards in place, the plant – which will generate enough electricity to supply 1.5 million homes – will nonetheless be spewing plenty of pollutants of both the air-quality and global-warming varieties across the region's skies.

"When you build a 1,500-megawatt power plant that doesn't address global warming pollution, that is not a clean-coal power plant. It's a misuse of the term," said Vickie Patton, an attorney with Environmental Defense. "(Desert Rock) is going to discharge a lot more traditional pollutants and not even grapple with global warming pollutants."

With mercury levels already reaching alarming levels at Four Corners-area reservoirs and lakes and air quality an issue of concern at Mesa Verde National Park, the massive Desert Rock plant surely will compound the growing problem. With resources available to implement alternative technologies, and public sentiment calling for such, there is no good reason for Sithe to have foregone the opportunity to make Desert Rock an example for future generating stations to follow. It is a shame that the company's example is not followed.

The IGCC method, combined with the recapture and storage of carbon dioxide, holds much promise, and the work that Xcel is putting into actualizing that promise is to be commended. It is a shame that Sithe did not similarly apply its efforts.

owered automobiles, (Cal Cars from California I believe.) We're recycling in a lot of places across America. We can't get all of our electricity from wind & solar.

Would the IGCC method be a clean enough work-  
hile alternative to go ahead with the Desert Rock  
power plant? America already has hydrogen fuel p-  
Over

Ron Rieb

VI-10210 22 06

Cortez CO 81321

Sirs:

FROM CORTAZ CO. CONCERNING  
THE PROPOSED "DESERT ROCK"  
POWER PLANT IDEA.

WE HAVE 2 PLANTS SOUTH  
"O" HERE NOW, WHEN WE CAME  
HERE 25 YR AGO WE COULD  
SEE ALL THE WAY TO THE  
SHIPROCK IN N. MEX., SOME  
40 MI AWAY. NOT SO TODAY.

LATELY, WHEN OUTSIDE,  
NICE CLEAR DAY I CAN HEAR  
OUR COMMUTER PLANES COMING  
FOR A LONG TIME BEFORE  
YOU SEE THEM. THEY BREAK  
THRU A LIGHT HAZE THAT  
WE ARE ALL NOW USED  
TO. OUR SKYS ARE POLLUTED  
NOW, EARLY PROMISES DIDNT  
WORK, LOSS OF VISIBILITY -  
MERCURY WARNINGS IN FISH  
HERE COME ON BOYS - "CAUGH"

NO TO "DESERT ROCK" Ron

Denise L. Nicholas

XI-103  
11/1/06

EPA: Re; Desert Rock

Four Corners (granted) has not  
read and cannot tolerate  
a 3rd Coal Burning Power Plant;

However; Desert Rock  
should be built in exchange  
for a 'shut down' of (1) one  
of the other (2) i.e. ...

- 4 Corners

- APS

... One of the other 2 APS  
to go due to continuous  
air pollution and

dis-regard to San Juan  
County Residents!!!

East Aztec, N.M.

Shirley A. Nelson      XI-104  
Box #  
Sheep Springs, N.M. 87364

November 12, 2006

Robert Baker  
EPA Air Quality (AIR-3)  
USEPA Region 9  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. Baker:

The Navajo Nation now exports 1200% more power than it consumes: 30% of Navajo homes do not have electricity and Navajo families that must haul their water pay almost **30 times more** than the Four Corners power plants. They get the power. We get the pollution. There has been a miscarriage of justice carried out by the recent hearings held on the Draft Air Quality Permit for Desert Rock, Clean Air Act Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit. The process did not begin to address the **increased** health problems caused by the air pollution and the toxic contamination that affect the residents right under the proposed Desert Rock 1,500 megawatt coal fired plant.

I am writing to object to the proposed Desert Rock Power Plant. In addition to the factors stated in the above paragraph the unpaved roads and weak infrastructure mean sure death in times of respiratory failure. **Adding particulates to the air increases the likelihood of death in times of respiratory failures. This is tantamount to murder.** 'Upgraded roads' were promised to Navajo residents by the Four Corners Power Plant but those promises remain unfulfilled.

Additionally, those who are proposing the mine are in violation of Environmental Justice Executive Order 12869 by not publicizing to local residents the "public" meetings. I object to progress and negotiations made without local residents' knowledge and input.

Before the permit is issued to Sithe Global Power for the Desert Rock Energy Facility it is critical that the above concerns be addressed. More important, real data needs to be extracted from the proposed are and NOT data from a hundred miles away when justifying the air quality as clean enough to make a third power plant acceptable.

Sincerely

Shirley A. Nelson